

Cornell in 1996, and military exercises by the People's Republic of China in the waters around the island of Taiwan on the eve of their historic Presidential elections. In all cases, Dr. Hu has provided valuable insights regarding these matters to me.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hu has distinguished himself among his countrymen. From his days as the ROC delegation leader at the U.N. World Youth Assembly in 1970 to his current post as the representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office here in Washington, DC, Dr. Hu has made a name for himself as an expert on foreign affairs. Obviously, President Lee recognizes Dr. Hu's abilities and has asked him to take the lead in foreign affairs. I hope Dr. Hu's replacement will be as helpful and knowledgeable about Taiwan issues.

Finally, I would like to wish both Dr. Hu, his wife Shirley, and their two children good luck and express to him my heartfelt thanks for a job well done.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee special investigation to meet on Friday, September 19, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on campaign financing issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

• Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, yesterday I attended a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the Department of Defense. It was a most impressive event to honor the men and women who serve in the defense of our Nation.

Our former colleague, Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen, highlighted the achievements of the Department over these past 50 years. He reminded us of the Department's great legacy and challenges that lie ahead in the future.

The Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and my good friend, Gen. Joe Ralston, also spoke at this event. His remarks illustrated the significant changes that have occurred since the Department's inception and saluted our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who so honorably serve our country.

Mr. President, I request that the text of the remarks of both Secretary Cohen and General Ralston be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The remarks follow:

REMARKS BY WILLIAM S. COHEN, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, SEPTEMBER 17, 1997

The poet Shelly called history "a cyclic poem written by time upon our memories."

Let me describe a certain pivot point in history: It is a time of daunting security challenges both at home and abroad. In Europe, the United States is proposing a bold plan to advance democracy, free markets and shared security. In the Pacific, America is the dominant power, but Korea remains dangerously divided and China is in a period of profound transition, its future uncertain, its intentions unclear. Meanwhile, breathtaking advances in technology are fueling a revolution in military affairs. And America's defense establishment is reorienting itself to confront the enormous security challenges of the new era.

I could be talking about September, 1997, for this picture captures our world today. But as history is "a cyclic poem," this picture also describes September, 1947, when the Department of Defense came into being.

We have been marking many golden anniversaries of late. These are the days of remembrance, a time to recall the historic trials and triumphs of half a century. The hallowed days—D-Day, VE-Day, VJ-Day. The historic deeds—the Marshall Plan, the National Security Act. And the enduring establishments—the United Nations, the US Air Force, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense.

Why do we recall these trials and triumphs? Because they can help us face the portents and possibilities of the century ahead. As we talk of tomorrow, we must be mindful to hold up the lamplight of history, so that we may walk with confidence on the footpath to the future.

We are here today to celebrate not the golden anniversary of a bureaucracy, or that of a building—but rather of a bold idea. That idea was for a National Military Establishment that unified all of our military services, land, sea and air, under a single Department with a civilian chief, the whole greater than the sum of its remarkable parts.

By 1947, it was an idea whose time had come. The generation that won the Second World War set out to win the peace. They understood that to win the peace, America had to be engaged in global affairs as a global leader. They had learned from personal experience—from their "blood, toil, tears and sweat"—the central lesson of this century: That when America neglects the problems of the world, the world often brings its problems to America's doorstep. And so they created a Department of Defense that would engage the world with gathered strength and purpose.

To witness the wisdom of this bold idea and its historic achievements, you only have to walk the corridors of the Pentagon.

You will walk past George Marshall's desk. He was soldier who led our forces to victory against fascism; a diplomat who set forth a bold vision for a new Europe, healed, whole, free and linked to America in the spirit of help and hope; and a Secretary of Defense who helped to halt the columns of communism on the Korean peninsula.

You will walk past a section of the Berlin Wall, once a symbol of tyranny and peril, now a symbol of the triumph of freedom, and a triumph of the Department of Defense that trained, equipped and maintained the US Armed Forces—forces that gave America and our allies the power and the will to stand fast and stand firm through 40 winters of the Cold War, and gave us the opportunity to secure a lasting peace in Europe and Asia.

As you walk through the corridors of the Pentagon, you will see not only the artifacts of our trials and triumphs, but the individuals who endured the trials and ensured the triumphs.

You will see the portraits of the military leadership, and also those who led this Department—the Secretaries of Defense—some

of whom have graced this ceremony with their presence today. Secretary Cap Weinberger, Secretary Frank Carlucci, Secretary Bill Perry: Each one of you has protected and defended those who protect and defend our nation. Each one of you has left the Department in better stead than when you arrived, and with a challenge to your successor to continue the legacy. I am honored and humbled to accept—and extend—this challenge.

But the legacy of leadership extends to those who were ready and willing to be led. And as you walk these corridors, you see the legacy of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines enshrined on our walls—from the Hall of Heroes that recall exceptional valor, to the exhibits that remember forgotten service—the Women's Military Corridor, the exhibits for Hispanic veterans and the Tuskegee Airmen.

To walk these corridors is to learn of courage and commitment; of service and sacrifice; of grit and greatness: From the frozen hills of Korea, to the twisted jungles of Vietnam; from Beirut to Grenada; Panama to Somalia; to the searing sands of Saudi Arabia and the mud and ice of Bosnia.

I dedicate our golden anniversary to their golden achievements.

In so doing, let me make a point which often becomes obscured in the reports which focus on our flaws: We have the best-trained, best-equipped and best-educated military in the history of the world, and we need to remember that despite our shortcomings, which we are eager to examine and confront openly, our forces are the envy of every other nation on this planet.

Finally, if you walk the corridors of the Pentagon, you will meet the backbone of this institution: The civilian employees who serve this Department and support the troops. The success of this Department is their success too.

But as we recall our trials and triumphs of the past, we face a new challenge: In 1997—as in 1947—we must build a Department of Defense that can face the dangers and the daring possibilities of the future. For a brave new world stretches beyond these lawns, past those shining monuments across the river. It is a world of momentous opportunity—of flourishing markets, stunning technologies, and new democracies. But it is also a world of startling new dangers—ethnic conflict, regional aggressors, and terrorism.

Fifty years hence, let those who look back on 1997 say that, we too, were not just a building or a bureaucracy, but that we too were bold. That we too were unafraid to think anew, to organize anew, to act anew. Let them say that by embracing the spirit of our era, we too were able to seize the challenges of our time: The challenge to shape the world; to respond to its threats; and to prepare for the future; to harness a Revolution in Military Affairs to give our forces the technology to dominate the battlefield; and to foment a Revolution in Business Affairs, to create a 21st Century Pentagon—a model of action, efficiency, economy and versatility.

Fifty years from now, let them say that our leadership, vision and courage helped catapult America into a new century. And 50 years from now, let them say that we bequeathed to them, what our predecessors bequeathed to us: The best trained, best equipped, best prepared military in history, the pride of our nation and the envy of the world.

I will close with the words from Daniel Webster, speaking at the dedication of the Bunker Hill Monument: "And now let us indulge an honest exultation in the conviction of the benefit which the example of our country has produced and is likely to produce on